



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

BARRON, CHIPPEWA, CLARK, DUNN, EAU CLAIRE, PEPIN, PIERCE, POLK, ST. CROIX

August
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Starting in October 2005, there will only be a quarterly edition of the Workforce Observation that will review the region's labor market over the previous quarter as well as featuring contemporary economic and demographic topics. Monthly workforce data for metropolitan areas is available from the home-page for the Office of Economic Advisors at http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea/xls/wi_msa_quick_table.xls and for non-metropolitan counties at http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea/xls/county_quick_table.xls. E-mail alerts will continue for the quarterly publications. Please contact the author if you have questions.

Job Growth Produces Lower Unemployment Rates

The unemployment rates for West Central Wisconsin and for seven of the nine counties within the region declined in July. The unemployment rate for West Central Wisconsin dropped from 4.3 percent in June to 4.0 percent in July while the rate for the Eau Claire metropolitan area declined from 4.7 percent to 4.1 percent. The reduction in unemployment was anticipated as summer job seekers find work and shift from being unemployed in June to employed in July. As a result the number of unemployed in the West Central region declined from 10,710 in June to 9,820 in July.

Even as some job seekers were finding work government payrolls, especially those with public education, were being reduced. Government employment declined by over 4,000 jobs from June to July but because employers from other sectors were hiring workers the impact on total employment was less drastic. Employment in the area in July was 235,440, down 390 from June.

With most counties in the state experiencing the same changes in labor force and employment the Wisconsin unemployment rate in July, not seasonally adjusted, of 4.6 percent, was also down from June while the national unemployment rate of 5.2 percent was unchanged from June. Sea-

sonally adjusted the state rate in July was 4.7 percent and the national rate was 5.0 percent.

The number of government jobs declined from 31,600 in June to 27,300 in July. Most of the reduction from June-to-July occurs as schools reduce payroll during the summer months. While some of the laid off school workers find a temporary job during the summer there are many workers, especially students in work-study programs, who leave the area at the end of the term. These students, as well as other workers that do not look for other work are no longer counted as part of the local workforce. The reductions this summer, however, were deeper than in previous years resulting in 1,100 fewer government jobs today than there were one year ago. This reduction is occurring in all counties of the region but is especially apparent in counties with state campuses.

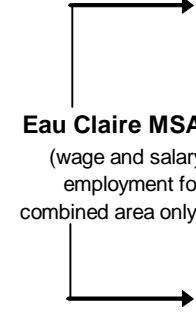
In the Eau Claire-Chippewa metropolitan area government jobs were down 700 from June and 300 from one year ago. In addition to the reductions in government there were 100 fewer jobs in transportation in July but most other industries either added workers or were unchanged. Manufacturing employers added 100 workers in July to total 10,600 jobs while trade employers added 300 jobs.

With fewer unemployed residents, seven of the nine counties in the region had lower unemployment rates in July. In Barron County the unemployment rate dropped from 4.6 percent in June to 4.2 percent in July. In Clark the rate declined from 5.0 to 4.6 percent, and in Dunn the rate dropped from 4.4 to 3.9 percent. The unemployment rate in Pepin County declined from 4.8 percent in June to 4.4 percent in July while the rate in Polk County dropped from 4.6 to 4.0 percent. The unemployment rate in each county of the region either matched or was lower than the state unadjusted unemployment rate in July of 4.6 percent.

However, the number of unemployed in Pierce and St. Croix counties increased during the month and resulted in a higher unemployment rate in each county. The increase in unemployment follows reductions in the number of jobs with trade and construction employers as well as the government reductions. The unemployment rate in Pierce County increased from 3.2 percent in June to 3.4 percent in July but was still the 3rd lowest rate in the state. In St. Croix County the unemployment rate rose from 3.6 to 3.8 percent in July and was the 10th lowest rate in Wisconsin.

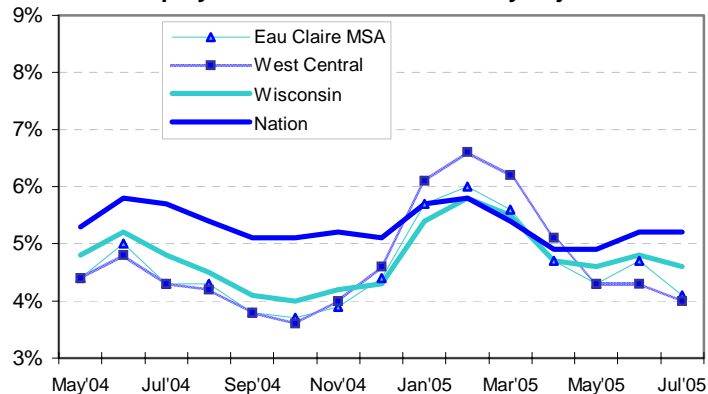
(see table on page 2)

Labor Force and Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment Estimates for West Central Wisconsin

	Barron			Clark			Chippewa			Eau Claire			West Central		
(Not seasonally adjusted)	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04
Labor force	25,809	25,924	26,340	17,839	18,108	18,275	31,143	31,092	31,684	54,616	54,533	55,715	245,259	246,534	249,118
Employed residents	24,734	24,735	25,144	17,022	17,205	17,448	29,738	29,513	30,233	52,491	52,095	53,366	235,439	235,826	238,431
Unemployed residents	1,075	1,189	1,196	817	903	827	1,405	1,579	1,451	2,125	2,438	2,349	9,820	10,708	10,687
% unemployed	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.5	5.1	4.6	3.9	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.3
(Number of jobs with employers in thousands)															
Total Nonfarm jobs	21.9	22.1	22.1	10.2	10.5	10.1	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Eau Claire MSA (wage and salary employment for combined area only)</p> </div>			77.5	77.7	77.7	180.2	183.2	180.0
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6				3.6	3.5	3.6	9.8	9.7	9.5
Manufacturing	6.0	5.5	6.3	2.8	2.8	2.8				10.6	10.5	10.6	32.0	31.3	32.5
Trade	3.7	3.7	3.7	1.6	1.6	1.5				13.0	12.7	12.9	29.0	28.8	28.7
Transportation & Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4				2.9	3.0	2.8	7.2	7.4	7.1
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3				3.8	3.7	3.9	7.7	7.6	7.6
Education & Health Services	2.6	2.7	2.6	1.2	1.1	1.2				13.1	13.1	12.7	25.0	25.0	24.4
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.8				7.4	7.4	8.0	18.3	18.0	18.6
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.7				8.9	8.9	8.7	23.8	23.7	23.2
Other Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA				3.7	3.7	3.7	(above incl. EC Other Ser)		
Total Government	3.8	4.6	4.0	1.8	2.1	1.8				10.5	11.2	10.8	27.3	31.6	28.5
	Dunn			Pepin			Pierce			Polk			St. Croix		
(Not seasonally adjusted)	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04	Jul '05	Jun '05	Jul '04
Labor force	22,727	23,212	23,403	3,958	4,067	4,068	23,359	23,343	23,395	23,313	23,763	23,603	42,495	42,492	42,635
Employed residents	21,833	22,187	22,433	3,785	3,872	3,893	22,570	22,599	22,546	22,375	22,676	22,521	40,891	40,944	40,847
Unemployed residents	894	1,025	970	173	195	175	789	744	849	938	1,087	1,082	1,604	1,548	1,788
% unemployed	3.9	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.8	4.3	3.4	3.2	3.6	4.0	4.6	4.6	3.8	3.6	4.2
(Number of jobs with employers in thousands)															
Total Nonfarm jobs	15.3	15.9	15.5	2.2	2.3	2.2	10.0	10.8	9.8	14.9	15.4	14.7	28.1	28.6	27.9
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.0	2.0	1.9
Manufacturing	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.8	0.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	5.6	5.5	5.9
Trade	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9	2.2	2.2	2.2	4.6	4.6	4.5
Transportation & Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.0
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
Education & Health Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Leisure & Hospitality	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	3.7	3.6	3.6
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	3.9	3.9	3.9
Total Government	2.9	3.6	3.2	0.4	0.6	0.5	2.9	3.4	2.9	2.0	2.6	2.2	3.0	3.6	3.1

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2004 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

Unemployment Rates-Not seasonally adjusted



	May'04	Jun'04	Jul'04	May'05	Jun'05	Jul'05
Eau Claire MSA	4.4%	5.0%	4.3%	4.3%	4.7%	4.1%
West Central	4.4%	4.8%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.0%
Wisconsin	4.8%	5.2%	4.8%	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%
Nation	5.3%	5.8%	5.7%	4.9%	5.2%	5.2%

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find more labor market information on the
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